

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VOE-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 SY-05

JUSE-00 L-03 SNM-02 DEAE-00 SIL-01 DHA-02 LAB-04

FBIE-00 PPTE-00 ARAE-00 TRSE-00 PRS-01 PA-02

USIA-15 INR-07 NSAE-00 /058 W

-----015136 201756Z /46

P R 201422Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 320

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

UNCLAS MATAMOROS 0081

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CVIS, SNAR, PORS, SOCI, MX

SUBJECT: VISIT OF US COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION

REF: MATAMOROS 0069 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE HONORABLE LEONEL CASTILLO, US COMMISSIONER
OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, RECENTLY VISITED
THE TEXAS LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY, INCLUDING GOOD-WILL VISITS
TO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES IN MATAMOROS AND REYNOSA. THE COMMISSIONER
SPOKE SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGALS, PARTICULARLY
MEXICANS; OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S AMNESTY PLANS FOR ILLEGALS WHO
ENTERED PRIOR TO A SPECIFIC DATE; FOR INCREASED BORDER CONTROL AS
THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND LEAST CONTROVERSIAL METHOD OF DEALING WITH
ILLEGAL ENTRANTS; OF A PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE H-2 (TEMPORARY
WORKERS) PROVISION OF THE LAW; OF THE NECESSITY TO CONFISCATE
VEHICLES USED BY ALIEN SMUGGLERS; AND TO "LOOK INTO" THE
POSSIBILITY OF RE-INSTITUTING THE WAIVER OF THE PASSPORT AND VISA
REQUIREMENTS FOR MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR BRIEF
VISITS TO BORDER AREAS. PRINCIPAL OFFICER HAD OPPORTUNITY TO
DISCUSS WITH THE COMMISSIONER AND WITH REGIONAL COMMISSIONER
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SOUTHER REGION, THE INCREASING PROBLEM OF PERSONS COMMITTING
SERIOUS CRIMES, INCLUDING MURDER, IN THE MEXICAN BORDER
AREA AND FINDING A HAVEN ON THE US SIDE FROM MEXICAN JUSTICE.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 15 AND JUNE 16 THE COMMISSIONER VISITED THE
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES IN REYNOSA AND MATAMOROS RESPECTIVELY,

RECEIVING A VERY WARM WELCOME. ON BOTH OCCASIONS THE PRESS HAD MANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ILLEGALS PROBLEM AND MEXICAN OFFICIALS REQUESTED THAT THE SPECIAL PASSPORT AND VISA WAIVER ABOLISHED ABOUT 4 YEARS AGO, BE RE-INSTITUTED. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS, AND AT VARIOUS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS IN BROWNSVILLE AND MCALLEN, THE COMMISSIONER SPOKE AT LENGTH ON THE SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S THINKING ON THE AMNESTY PROPOSAL (INSTEAD OF THE WORD AMNESTY HE SAID THAT THE WORD "REGISTRATION" IS NOW FAVORED) IS TO REGULARIZE THE STATUS OF THOSE PERSONS WHO ENTERED THE UNITED STATES BEFORE 1970. THOSE PERSONS ENTERING AFTER 1970 UNTIL A YET TO BE DETERMINED DATE, WOULD BE PLACED IN A "NONDEPORTABLE" CATEGORY. HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE PLANS OF BRINGING MANY MEXICAN WORKERS UNDER THE H-2 PROVISIONS OF THE LAW, WAIVING THE PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR THEM.

2. AT REYNOSA THE COMMISSIONER WAS NONCOMMITTAL RE REQUESTS FOR VISA WAIVER FOR MEXICAN OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, IN MATAMOROS HE SAID THAT BECAUSE THE SAME REQUEST FOR WAIVER WAS MADE TO HIM AT TIJUANA AND REYNOSA, THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS MATTER UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

3. PRINCIPAL OFFICER WAS WITH THE COMMISSIONER DURING MOST OF HIS TWO DAY VISIT TO THE AREA. HE AND THE HIGH I&NS OFFICIALS IN THE PARTY, WERE VERY INTERESTED TO HEAR
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ABOUT THE GRAVE PROBLEM OF PERSONS FINDING A HAVEN IN THE U.S. AFTER COMMITTING FELONIES IN MEXICO. SINCE MARCH 16, 1977, IN MATAMOROS ALONE THERE HAVE BEEN A TOTAL OF 7 REPORTED CASES OF WHICH 4 WERE AMCITS AND 3 WERE MEXICAN LEGAL US RESIDENTS. ONE WAS AN ESCAPEE SENTENCED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING. NONE HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO MEXICO. THERE ARE COUNTLESS OTHER WHO HAVE FLED TO BROWNSVILLE, AFTER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF MEXICAN LAW, THUS EFFECTIVELY ESCAPING FROM MEXICAN JUSTICE. MANY OF THOSE PERSONS ARE ONLY IN POSSESSION OF BORDER-CROSSING CARDS (FORM I-186) AND REMAIN IN BROWNSVILLE INDEFINITELY AND RETURN TO MEXICO ONLY WHEN THEY FEEL IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. NO DOUBT THIS SITUATION ALSO EXISTS IN OTHER MEXICO/US BORDER AREAS.

4. ON JUNE 14 PRINCIPAL OFFICER ALSO DISCUSSED THIS INTOLERABLE SITUATION WITH COL. LEO E. GOSSETT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AUSTIN AND WITH OTHER DPS OFFICERS WHO WERE IN BROWNSVILLE ATTENDING THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE TEXAS POLICE ASSOCIATION. THEY, AS THE I&NS OFFICIALS, WERE PERIPHERALY AWARE OF THE SITUATION BUT DID NOT REALIZE ITS SERIOUSNESS.

5. ALL PARTIES AGREED THAT A SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND TO STOP
HARBORING SUCH PERSONS AND PROMISED TO STUDY THE PROBLEM.

6. THE COMMISSIONER AND ESCORT WERE OBVIOUSLY PLEASED
WITH THE FINE RECEPTION GIVEN TO THEM WHEREEVER THEY WENT.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: CGEN, CVIS, SNAR, PORS, SOCI, PBOR, OTRA, US, MX, (CASTILLO, LEONEL)
To: STATE
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